

Community Line FALL 2003

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF *DC's TRANSIT FUTURE*



DC's Transit Future: Expanding the System Community-Wide

Metro is a success story of regional partnerships and commitment to a future vision. The 103 miles of Metrorail serves about 181 million passenger trips a year, and a fleet of 1,460 buses serves over 147 million trips per year. Combined, that's over 328 million trips. So are we there yet?

In this ISSUE

Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project: Take A Ride To The Future

Feature Destination: Anacostia

Alternatives Analysis: Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Something to Talk About: Question and Answer

Game: Name That Scene

The system is such a success that capacity and crowding issues have spurred WMATA and the District to find an innovative solution to enhance transit services, while simultaneously working to support the Mayor's goal to bring 100,000 new residents into the City. Alex Eckmann, of the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, says "We are trying to build an intra-city service, and we see light rail or bus rapid

transit as a cost-effective solution to meet transit needs." "While Metrorail is excellent at what it does, carrying people in and out of the City, and Metrobus is excellent at what it does, carrying people on shorter trips within the City, there's a gap that needs to be filled by another technology," explains Greg Walker, the WMATA Project Manager for *DC's Transit Future*. "By introducing a third technology, like light rail or bus rapid transit, we can serve people trying to get around within the City and support community development efforts at the same time."



DC's Transit Future is a continuation of previous efforts to implement new transit options for District residents and the region. Once constructed, the service will provide seamless connections to Metrorail and Metrobus for passengers who want to use the new service to make trips to work, for errands, to school, or to other places within the City.

To showcase the new economic development and transportation possibilities that *DC's Transit Future* could provide, the District and WMATA are building a three-mile demonstration light rail line between Pennsylvania Avenue and Bolling Air Force Base along the CSX branch line in Anacostia. An Environmental Assessment is being conducted in Anacostia for the Demonstration Project to consider effects on area communities. The Demonstration Project will have an environmental finding from the Federal Transit Administration this winter, and is scheduled to break ground early next year. The potential projects to improve transportation service in other corridors will be identified by fall of next year.

The next generation of transit for the District and the region cannot happen without your support. Watch for notices of public events in community newspapers or contact WMATA's Project Manager to find out how you can help shape *DC's Transit Future*. Greg Walker, Project Manager/gawalker@wmata.com/202-962-1818.

Create the Project TAGLINE

What do we say to you? What should our name be? Help name our project by submitting an entry to our "tagline" contest. So far we've heard

DC's Transit Future:
New Technology, New Travel Options

DC's Transit Future:
Rolling Toward Community Building

DC's Transit Future
Get Connected to More of the District

What do you think? Email us!
comment@dctransitfuture.com

**Call 202-669-8098 or visit us online
at www.dctransitfuture.com**

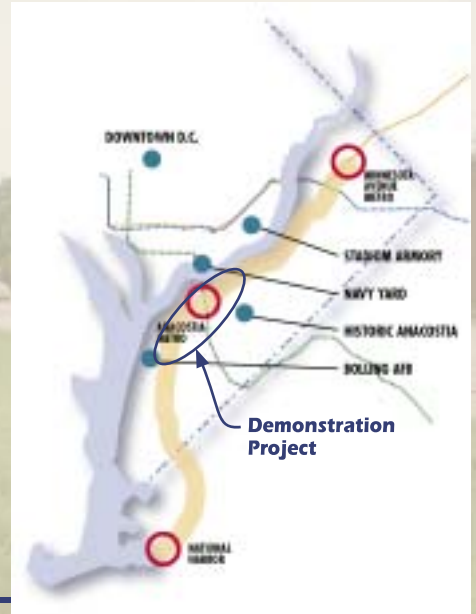
Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project: Take A Ride To The Future

What do you get when you use a railroad line to link a military complex, a Metrorail Station, adjacent communities, and a park? By 2005, the Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project will show you. The District and WMATA are considering

up to three miles of new transit improvements that will connect the Barry Farms, Fairlawn and Historic Anacostia neighborhoods to the regional Metrorail system and to other destinations between Pennsylvania Avenue and Bolling Air Force Base. Conceived of as a three-year Demonstration Project, the rail service provided will help area residents to assess the types of transit improvements that might be needed in the future, and how those improvements might affect development opportunities in the area.

An important part of deciding if the project should advance to implementation in the Anacostia area is the completion of an Environmental Assessment, or EA. The EA, which is currently under way in cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration, provides citizens, elected officials and environmental agencies the opportunity to discuss how new transit improvements might affect area neighborhoods and environmental quality. As part of the EA process, we will seek community input. Based on community comments, the EA will be used to help refine the facilities associated with the Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project. The WMATA Board of Directors is scheduled to make a final decision on the project in January 2004.

The success of the EA process depends on you! Watch for area meetings in your neighborhood, and come make your opinion heard. Look for an upcoming Public Hearing being scheduled for the last week in October.



Feature Destination: ANACOSTIA

Something to Talk About

Question: Does building light rail in Anacostia predetermine what goes everywhere else?

Answer: No. The Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project is being built to demonstrate one kind of surface transit technology, but that may not suit other corridors in the system. It is important to note that while both electric and diesel-powered rail service are being examined in the Anacostia Corridor, the specific technology and power source has not yet been determined.

WMATA is also studying bus rapid transit in the *K Street Busway* and *Downtown Circulator* studies. Rail might serve some areas well, but in other instances bus rapid transit might be the better choice as it requires less street reconstruction and can be moved to maintenance facilities easily and interchangeably.

Do you have a favorite?



MLK & U Streets, SE: The demonstration project will connect commercial corridors in Anacostia with community development initiatives like Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and South Capitol Street Gateway

V Street, SE: Anacostia residents, including those along V Street in Old Anacostia, will benefit from the direct connections to destinations within the Corridor, park spaces, and access to Metrorail.



Frederick Douglass House (W & 14th Streets, SE): Residents and visitors city-wide will have more direct access to cultural landmarks and destinations like Historic Anacostia, the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, and the Frederick Douglass House.



Alternatives Analysis:

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Being a good neighbor requires listening, attention to detail, and sensitivity to the needs of others. The Alternatives Analysis will help the District and WMATA do just that as they explore how to better serve communities and businesses throughout D.C. The first step is to evaluate the needs of both current and potential customers. To do this, the project will survey current riders and market trends to identify areas where high ridership and other travel demand patterns indicate a need for higher levels of transit service and investment.

Based on identified needs, the District and WMATA will work with residents and business owners to understand how different routes, vehicles, and service levels can help take us where we want to go, and to support healthy, vibrant neighborhoods. By working together, we can select the alternatives that best achieve the goals and objectives of locally adopted plans. Tell us what transit improvements you would like to see to support your community, and what it takes to be a "good neighbor" by calling 202-699-8098 or visiting our website at www.dctransitfuture.com.



Getting to Know YOU



Councilmember Sandra "Sandy" Allen represents Ward 8 and the location of the Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project. She is also a life-long resident of the Community.

Q: What most excites you about the Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project and the proposed new transit system currently under study?

A: Community Connections: the ability to connect Ward 8 and other parts of the East of the River Community without having to go in 18 different directions to catch a bus or train to go from place to place or to get here.

Q: Can you describe the transportation challenges that face Ward 8?

A: If I'm at Benning Rd. and Minnesota Avenue and I want to get to Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and Malcolm X Avenue I would have to catch a bus and a train - there are no direct connections. A light rail along the CSX track will provide a more direct route - a better connection. The Demonstration Project will mainly improve the flow of people east of the Anacostia River between Ward 8 and Ward 7, and beyond.

Q: What are some of the benefits this project will bring to the Anacostia Community as a whole?

A: First, the light rail project will clean-up and beautify the CSX right-of-way, which has been a continuing problem. A trolley is a clean technology and should have environmental benefits. My hope is that it will reduce vehicle trips between the north and south communi-

ties east of the Anacostia River, which will also lead to reductions in air pollution and water pollution. Finally, it will promote community development. I want to bring as many people as I can east of the River to share in the community development and the historic cultural riches of this community.

**Call 202-669-8098 or visit us online
at www.dctransitfuture.com**

A Streetcar Named. . . ? **Name that Scene!**

Can you name these street scenes? For help, see answers below.

Photos courtesy of the National Capital Trolley Museum Web Site, www.dctrolley.org



Photo 1: Streetcars turn the corner at Wisconsin Avenue and M Street in Georgetown.
Photo 2: Streetcar leaving the Lincoln Park Car Barn in Capitol Hill, headed for Mount Pleasant. This structure still exists and is now a Condominium.

Answers:

CommunityLine

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